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Allegiances

ThunderClan:

Leader: Firestar- Ginger tom with a flame-colored pelt

Deputy: Brambleclaw- Dark brown tabby tom with amber eyes

Medicine cats:

Leafpool- Light brown tabby she-cat with amber eyes

Jayfeather- Gray tabby tom with blind blue eyes

Warriors:

Graystripe

Dustpelt

Sandstorm

Brackenfur

Sorreltail

Cloudtail

Brightheart

Millie

Thornclaw

Squirrelflight

Spiderleg

Birchfall

Whitewing

Berrynose

Hazeltail

Mousewhisker

Poppyfrost

Cinderheart

Lionblaze

Foxleap, apprentice- Cherrypaw

Icecloud

Toadstep

Rosepetal, apprentice- Molepaw

Briarlight

Blossomfall

Bumblestripe

Dovewing

Ivypool

Apprentices:

Cherrypaw

Molepaw

Queens:

Ferncloud

Daisy

Elders:

Mousefur

Purdy

ShadowClan:

Leader: Blackstar

Deputy: Rowanclaw

Medicine cats:

Littlecloud

Flametail

Warriors:

Oakfur

Smokefoot

Toadfoot

Applefur

Crowfrost

Ratscar

Snowbird

Tawnypelt

Olivenose

Owlclaw

Shrewfoot

Scorchfur

Redwillow

Tigerheart

Dawnpelt

Pinenose

Ferretclaw

Ferretclaw

Starlingwing

Queens:

Kinkfur

Ivytail

Elders:

Cedarheart

Tallpoppy

Snaketail

Whitewater

WindClan:

Leader: Onestar

Deputy: Ashfoot

Medicine cat:

Kestrelflight

Warriors:

Crowfeather

Owlwhisker, apprentice- Whiskerpaw

Whitetail

Nightcloud, apprentice- Furzepaw

Gorsetail

Weaselfur

Harespring

Leaftail

Antpelt

Emberfoot

Breezepelt, apprentice- Boulderpaw

Sedgewhisker

Swallowtail

Heathertail

Sunstrike

Apprentices:

Whiskerpaw

Furzepaw

Boulderpaw

Elders:

Webfoot

Tornear

RiverClan:

Leader: Mistystar

Deputy: Reedwhisker, apprentice- Hollowpaw

Medicine cats:

Mothwing

Willowshine

Warriors:

Graymist, apprentice- Troutpaw

Mintfur

Icewing

Minnowtail, apprentice- Mossypaw

Pebblefoot, apprentice- Rushpaw

Mallownose

Robinwing

Beetlewhisker

Petalfur

Grasspelt

Apprentices:

Hollowpaw

Troutpaw

Mossypaw

Rushpaw

Queens:

Duskfur

Mosspelt

Elders:

Dapplenose

Pouncetail

Cats outside Clans:

Smoky

Floss

Sol- Tall, mottled, bright tortoiseshell-and-white tom with yellow eyes

Hollyleaf- Black she-cat with green eyes

Fallen Leaves (Spirit)- Ginger-and-white patched tom with green eyes

Moose- Small brown tom with warm amber eyes

Kiwi- Long-furred brown she-cat with emerald-green eyes

(allegiances updated)

Prologue

Darkness.

The cave was folded by darkness, the small pool reflecting the next sky. A gray tabby tom looked around, as if expecting something to happen. His jaws were parted, tasting the air.

From the darkness, a scrawny tom padded out. He was furless with only a few lumps of fur sticking from his spine. His skin was saggy and lumpy, and with a few scars. His ears had a few cuts in them too. His blind eyes were gray and bulging, his whiskers bent.

"Rock," the blind gray tom greeted as he sniffed the air. "I could tell you were coming again."

The furless tom, Rock, curled his skinny rat-like tail over his paws as he sat down. "Jayfeather," he breathed. Even if this hairless tom was blind, his eyes seemed to be staring straight at Jayfeather.

Jayfeather sighed suddenly, closing his cloudy eyes. "This better not be another prophecy or message this time," he sighed, irritated.

Rock stood up, moonlight pooling on his skin. Stars reflected in his blind eyes. His long, twisted, dirty claws unsheathed from his paws. "Something will happen. Four kits that shouldn't be born...."

Jayfeather pricked his ears forward, as if finally taking an interest.

"They didn't have to be born, or created, but the star's light shall wash them, bathe them, and thunder, river, wind, and shadow will be pooled with light, the darkness gone," Rock meowed, looking up at the stars. He looked as if he wasn't blind anymore.

Jayfeather bristled, flattening his ears. "What in StarClan is that supposed to mean? How do you StarClan cats even think we can solve this mouse-dung?" He hissed, his tail lashing.

Rock ignored the blind tabby's irritated tone, closing his eyes, to

which you could see them bulging still. "If only the fallen holly stays where it is, will we be washed with light, but the sun will lie."

Jayfeather sighed, looking annoyed once more. "Could you be more specific about what all that means? How do I even figure out what a fallen holly is? And how can the sun lie-- oh, it's probably not even the sun!" He growled.

Rock opened his eyes, his blind stare fixing on Jayfeather. "Maybe once they come, will you get the message. You have been a medicine cat long enough to know that StarClan will *never* be specific." The tom's tone was firm.

Suddenly, Rock began to fade, the darkness around him fading too.

Jayfeather found himself surrounded by swirling stars. He could hear them spinning, could feel the strong winds on his pelt. There were thin voices on the wind like whispers.

Jayfeather suddenly woke up, blinking. He parted his jaws, tasting the watery tang of the Moonpool. He could feel a warm flank beside his, and he could scent Leafpool. She was probably still dreaming.

Jayfeather lay still, his thoughts jumbled. *Another prophecy. But about what? I need to know what Rock meant by the sun lying, and what the fallen holly is. And..... maybe even what these kits will be.*

Suddenly, another thought struck Jayfeather. *Fallen holly.... is Hollyleaf.... still alive perhaps?*

Chapter 1

--Hollyleaf's POV--

Hollyleaf woke up to the sound of something thumping on the ground beside her. She blinked open her eyes, seeing a dead fish by the side of her nest.

Fallen Leaves's face was peering over the edge of Hollyleaf's nest, his green eyes shimmering. "Good morning."

Hollyleaf blinked sleep from her eyes, beginning to purr. She pulled the fish closer, taking a bite from it. "Do you want some?" She asked.

"No," Fallen Leaves answered. "I ate a fish while you were still sleeping," he admitted, his green eyes shining with amusement.

Hollyleaf got to her paws after eating the last bit of fish. She remembered when she thought about going to ThunderClan, but she was too scared. And plus she didn't want to leave Fallen Leaves.

"So what will we be doing today?" Fallen Leaves asked, his tail lifting as he watched Hollyleaf climb from her nest.

"I'm not sure," Hollyleaf sighed. She padded across the stony ground. Sunlight poked from a hole in the roof of the cave. She could see dust floating in the air as sunlight reflected from it. The stream was running fast in the cave. Fish swam in the clear water, sunlight reflecting off their scales.

"Do you think you should practice catching fish or swimming?" Fallen Leaves asked, coming up beside her. He sat down, curling his tail neatly around his paws.

Hollyleaf avoided his gaze. "I'm not feeling up to it," she sighed, closing her eyes. A memory of her training with her mentor, Brackenfur, flashed into her mind. She kind of missed ThunderClan.

No, I can't go back. Not after what I did.

He parted his jaws, tasting the air. For a second it seemed as if fear flashed across his gaze. "Rain is coming, I can smell it."

Hollyleaf sat down at the stream's edge, watching the fish go by. *I guess I could practice hunting fish*. She crouched down, lapping at the water. She then felt a tail on her shoulders.

"I can tell you miss ThunderClan," Fallen Leaves meowed. "You know, I-... I don't mind you going back," his voice sounded regretful almost.

"N-no! I don't want to go back!" Hollyleaf heard her mew crack. She curled her bushy tail around her paws. "I'm staying here. With you."

Fallen Leaves's eyes rounded with slight surprise. He leaned forward, licking Hollyleaf's cheek. "Right. We're mates."

Hollyleaf gazed back at him, her heart pounding. She felt soothed by him. *Right, we are.* "But.... H-how can this work? You're a spirit," she sighed, hating to say it to him.

"It can still work. We'll make it work," Fallen Leaves meowed, sounding determined. His whiskers twitched, his green gaze fixing on the stream. His reflection wasn't visible.

Hollyleaf scooted closer to him. She began to purr. StarClan didn't give me a power, but this is much better. Her fur felt cold, leaning against Fallen Leaves. Did this feel wrong?

Fallen Leaves took in a deep breath, then looked up from the water, his green eyes fixing on her. They stared into each others' eyes for a moment.

"You know, I'm so glad I met you. I... I was so lonely wondering around in these tunnels for moons and moons." Fallen Leaves's gaze shimmered, the stars in his fur sparkling brighter. He stretched out a paw, putting it on Hollyleaf's paw. "At least StarClan gave me a chance."

Hollyleaf felt soothed by his quiet voice. She purred. "I'm glad I met you too. Without meeting you after the rock fall, I don't think I'd be alive right now," she admitted. But we'd meet in StarClan....

Fallen Leaves's gaze flashed with fear for a moment. "I don't want you to think that. You're tough; I know you would've survived somehow."

"You taught me how to survive, how to catch fish down here," Hollyleaf purred. She looked up as the sunlight disappeared, instead being replaced by darkness. A cloud must've passed over the sun.

Fallen Leaves looked up too, his ears pricking forward. He looked sad, almost as if remembering a bad memory.

Then, a rain drop splattered down from the hole, then another. More rain drops continued to spatter the stream's surface.

Hollyleaf got to her paws, turning away. Fallen Leaves stood up, padding up beside her.

"I should get sleep," Hollyleaf murmured. She climbed into her nest, curling her tail over her nose. Fallen Leaves curled up beside her, his paws stretching over to hers.

"Sleep well."

Chapter 2

--Fallen Leaves's POV--

Another day had passed, and Fallen Leaves was curled in his nest with Hollyleaf. They'd hunted yesterday and practiced battle moves. He was tired. And with his tail curled around his mate's tail, he was able to fall asleep quickly.

Fallen Leaves woke up though. *Where am I? This is different.* Suddenly, he quickly realized he was in the tunnels. The darkness had confused him. Fallen Leaves's fur stood on end. He felt like something was standing behind him, watching him. But when he turned around, nothing was there.

Fallen Leaves padded forward in the tunnels. Now they felt familiar. The dirt underpaw was familiar, and so was the closed, cramped space he was walking in. But something still wasn't right. As Fallen Leaves padded forward, he was confused as he still felt fear prickling his pelt. It was like a heavy stone in his belly.

What is that? Water sounded distant in the tunnels. It sounded as if it was dripping. Fallen Leaves pricked his ears. The sound of rushing water echoed around the cave, filling Fallen Leaves's ears. Now fear surged all around his body. *Stop!*

Fallen Leaves ran forward, his whiskers sensing two tunnel openings. He rushed into one, fear guiding him. But the water was getting louder. It sounded like a waterfall rushing right above his head. *What's happening*?

Water echoed all around Fallen Leaves, and now he was confused which way it was coming from. He bristled with terror, his whiskers twitching. *No. Calm down, it's only a dream, I can't die*. He rushed forward, but with every pawstep, the water got louder.

Fallen Leaves ran forward more, but felt his paws splattering in water. He kept running, ignoring the fear running through his pelt.

He saw light suddenly at the end of the tunnel. He ran faster, feeling the water get higher around his paws. Hope surged inside him as the light at the end got bigger. That's the exit!

Suddenly, water rushed through the exit, slushing towards Fallen Leaves. He screamed wih terror as the wave engulfed him, filling his ears and nose. But he swam forward determinedly. *I can make it.*

Fallen Leaves swam through the water, his lungs already screaming for air. The light got bigger, and figures were standing in the light. He swam forward faster, feeling the tunnel widen around him. He was able to get his nose out of the water now. But suddenly, all the water disappeared.

Fallen Leaves looked around in confusion as the tunnel and the light disappeared too. Suddenly, whiteness flashed all around him.

Fallen Leaves flinched awake in his nest, his heart pounding. He felt paws shaking his shoulders.

"Fallen Leaves! Wake up, please!"

Fallen Leaves blinked open his eyes, seeing Hollyleaf standing over him, her green eyes wide with panic and fear. Was something wrong?

"Oh thank StarClan you're ok! You were flailing and whimpering in your nest! I tight something was wrong," Hollyleaf mewed, the fear thinning in her voice.

Fallen Leaves got to his paws, resting his chin on her head. "I'm ok now. Just another bad dream," he whispered.

"What bad dream? Another tunnel dream?" Hollyleaf asked.

"A tunnel dream, but it was different this time. I almost escaped," Fallen Leaves explained. And this time the water rushed in.

"Do you think StarClan might be... trying to tell you something?" Hollyleaf asked, her green eyes locking with his.

Fallen Leaves gazed at her. "I think if they wanted to tell me something, they would've told me by now."

A look of annoyance flashed in Hollyleaf's eyes. "Well, you know StarClan," she sighed.

Fallen Leaves padded past her as he heard his belly growl. "I'll catch us something to eat," he meowed, walking over to the stream. The fish were swimming quickly in the water. But he noticed something different. The water seemed higher, lapping at the edge of the pebbly shore.

Hollyleaf rushed to his side. "The stream flooded last night because of the rain, but it wasn't that bad. With the sun shining on it like that, it'll go down quicker," she soothed.

"I guess," Fallen Leaves meowed. He ḳept his gaze fixed on the stream, then swiped a paw at the water, splashing droplets into the air. His claws hit flesh. Fallen Leaves pulled the fish out of the water, killing it with a quick bite.

Hollyleaf crouched by the shore, her gaze fixed on the water.

Fallen Leaves dropped his catch on the ground. "You can have mine."

"Let me catch my own," Hollyleaf mewed. She then swiped at the water, but was unsuccessful at pulling a fish from the water. She looked a bit irritated.

Fallen Leaves flashed her a sympathetic look. He crouched down. "You do it like this," he mewed, putting his paw in the air, claws unsheathed. "Then you wait for the perfect moment."

Hollyleaf looked over at him, her whiskers twitching. "Great StarClan, are you a RiverClan cat?" She asked, purring. Her green eyes shone with amusement.

Fallen Leaves narrowed his eyes affectionately. "Well, maybe I am. Who knows." He began to purr. He then turned his attention back to the water. "Then you swipe your paw down right before the fish is under you." As the fish near him, he lashed downwards, his claws

catching the fish at the perfect moment.

"Oh alright, great Fallenstar," Hollyleaf teased. She looked into the water, her gaze fixed on a fish that was heading towards her. Then, she swiped down, her paw hooking the fish from the water. She dropped it onto the ground, giving it a quick killing bite.

"Great job," Fallen Leaves purred, his whiskers twitching. "Now, lets eat. And maybe we could go outside."

Chapter 3

--Hollyleaf's POV--

Hollyleaf wondered through the tunnel, Fallen Leaves behind her. She was finally going out once more into the fresh sunshine. Light was at the end of the tunnel. But something seemed wrong. Hollyleaf felt as though something bad was about to happen. But what?

Finally, Hollyleaf set paw onto soft grass. She took in a deep breath, smelling the strong scent of ThunderClan. She could also smell fox.

Fallen Leaves came from the tunnel behind her, stepping into the forest. He looked around, his figure transparent against the trees.

Hollyleaf looked around, feeling like an apprentice on her first tour of the territory. Every scent was familiar to her. "This feels so great," she meowed. *It makes me realize how much I miss ThunderClan.*

Fallen Leaves's eyes flashed with grief. "You won't leave me, will you?" He asked.

"Of course I won't leave you!" Hollyleaf gasped. She turned around, pressing her muzzle to the tom's cheek. "I-I...."

Fallen Leaves flashed her a sympathetic look. "I'm sorry.. if I might of upset you."

"No, it's not that," Hollyleaf murmured. "I'm angry. I wish things could be different. I wish you were alive. I wish you were in ThunderClan, with me. Then things would be so much easier," she sighed.

Fallen Leaves gazed at her, sadness shining in his eyes. But before he could reply, a screech echoed through the forest.

Hollyleaf looked up, her ears pricking forward. "What was that?"

"I don't know," Fallen Leaves meowed, his tail bushing up.

Hollyleaf looked at her mate. "Stay here," she ordered. She rushed forward, tearing through the undergrowth. Her tail streamed behind her as she ran through the tall grass, the trees becoming a blurr around her.

"Cherrypaw! Run and get help!" A young tom mewled.

"I can't leave you!" A young she-cat responded.

Hollyleaf burst through the undergrowth, seeing two young cats. They smelled of ThunderClan and looked like apprentices. They were up in a tree. A fox was at the base, clawing at the bark and snarling at the cats.

On the branch, a ginger she-cat was leaning over a brown-and-cream tom. The she-cat was whimpering, her amber eyes filled with grief and fear.

"Cherrypaw, please get help," the apprentice mewed weakly. Blood stained his cream chest fur.

Hollyleaf bristled. She rushed forward, leaping onto the fox's back. She sunk her teeth into its shoulder, feeling flesh.

The fox snarled, turning on her. It snapped its jaws but Hollyleaf leaped clear.

Hollyleaf lashed out with a paw, slicing the fox's nose. Blood splashed onto the grass. The fox yelped with rage.

Suddenly, white flashed through the air.

Hollyleaf gasped. *Fallen Leaves! I told him to stay behind!* The fox snapped at her ear, biting at the tip. She yowled with pain as she felt the fox tear it off. Blood trickled down her ear and down her face. Hissing, she lashed out, slashing the fox's muzzle.

Fallen Leaves slashed at the fox's ears, hissing at the scrawny

creature. He sunk his claws into its head.

Hollyleaf darted under the fox, slashing its chest. She held on, clinging to its fur and pummeling its belly. She could feel her hindclaws pulling out clumps and fur, and then could feel them slashing at flesh.

The fox howled with pain and then scrambled away, rushing into the bushes.

Hollyleaf rushed towards Fallen Leaves, her heart pounding. "I thought I told you to stay!" She meowed, her voice cracking. *He could've been injured!*

"I'm sorry, but I had to come. I didn't want you to get hurt!" Fallen Leaves mewed, his eyes shimmering with grief. He looked at her ear. "And see, you are hurt."

Before Hollyleaf could respond, the she-cat apprentice, Cherrypaw, jumped from the tree. The scruff of the brown and cream tom was in her jaws.

"P-please, help my brother," Cherrypaw meowed. She had a wound on her shoulder that trickled blood.

Fallen Leaves looked at Hollyleaf, then back at the apprentice. "C-can you see me?" He asked, his voice shaky.

"I... I can," Cherrypaw mewed. "But you're see-through. I-I don't care though, real or not, help us!" Cherrypaw pleaded.

"Follow us," Hollyleaf meowed, flicking her tail.

Chapter 4

[image]

--Fallen Leaves's POV--

Another day had passed. *Will Hollyleaf ever go outside again? She can't, oh please, StarClan.* Fallen Leaves reapplied cobwebs to Cherrypaw's wound. It seemed even weirder now that they had company. But he had to take care of these cats.

Fallen Leaves turned his head towards Hollyleaf, who was still asleep in her nest. Worry wormed beneath his pelt. *The more she exits the tunnels, the more she wants to leave, the more she wants to go to ThunderClan.* But she hadn't even told Cherrypaw and Molepaw that she was ThunderClan. Grief echoed in his chest. Hollyleaf can't leave me. If she does, I'll be alone again.

Fallen Leaves then began to treat Molepaw's wound. Tiredness swarmed over him. He'd been treating these apprentices all night. And glancing over at his nest with Hollyleaf in it made him even more tired. *I should really get some rest. The apprentices will be fine.*

Fallen Leaves, his eyelids drooping, padded over to his nest, curling up beside his mate, Hollyleaf. He closed his eyes, darkness folding around him.

Fallen Leaves opened his eyes to being in a tunnel. Water was surrounding him, but his nose was above it. He was right at the edge of the tunnel, the light shimmering at the end. *This dream again!* He swam forward, climbing from the tunnel. The shadowy figures could be made out now.

Rock was standing there, his bulging gray eyes fixing on Fallen Leaves.

Broken Shadow, Fallen Leaves's mother, stood beside Stone Song,

his father. Midnight was standing beside Rock, her beady black eyes shimmering.

Fallen Leaves glanced around. "Mother? Father?" His first instinct was to run to them and greet them, but he had a feeling he should stay still.

"Fallen Leaves. There is a prophecy," Rock meowed, his claws working into the grass. "Four kits are about to be born, four kits that might change how the war will end. But, something else is happening. You might see your kin a lot later than you expected," Rock meowed.

"What does that mean?" Fallen Leaves asked, blinking at Rock.

Rock sighed. "This might be the only time I'm specific, Fallen Leaves, but you will one day be alive again."

Fallen Leaves was slightly confused. "What do you mean 'alive again'?" He asked. *And what would happen to make me alive again?*

"Hollyleaf is why," Rock meowed, ignoring his question. It was as if he'd read Fallen Leaves's mind. "She.... has a power."

Fallen Leaves blinked at him. "What? But she said-"

Rock cut him off. "Do not tell her about this. She may think she doesn't have a power, but she does."

Fallen Leaves's heart pounded in his chest. *Why doesn't she know about her power?* "What is this power?" He asked the ancient tom.

"I cannot say," Rock meowed. "But, this power results in the prophecy," he told him. "It doesn't matter if she doesn't know about it."

"Why can't I tell her?" Fallen Leaves asked, feeling defensive. *Is there a reason I can't tell Hollyleaf?* "Why?" He repeated.

Rock blinked at him, his gray eyes staring blankly at him. He looked away.

Broken Shadow and Stone Song began to fade away suddenly, the stars disappearing from them.

Rock lifted his chin to the sky, then began to fade away.

Fallen Leaves woke in his nest to Hollyleaf shaking him.

"Wake up!" Hollyleaf yowled, fear flashing in her green gaze. "It's Molepaw!"

Chapter 5

[image]

--Hollyleaf's POV--

Hollyleaf led her mate towards Molepaw's nest. The small tom was limp, stiff with death. He felt cold when she put her paw to his pelt.

Fallen Leaves bristled, his eyes widening. "He's dead! This wasn't supposed to happen!" He yowled, the stars in his pelt blazing.

Cherrypaw buried her muzzle in her brother's fur, her cries echoing around the cave.

"I'm sorry," Hollyleaf whimpered, touching the apprentice's shoulders with her tail. Grief flicked in her green eyes.

Fallen Leaves sniffed Molepaw's chest wound, his nose wrinkling. "He died from infection. But how could.... how could he of died? I cleaned that wound," he mewed.

Hollyleaf gazed at him. "It's not your fault if you think it is, Fallen Leaves." She sat down, glancing down at Molepaw, sadness in her eyes.

Fallen Leaves sat down too, grief glittering in his eyes. "This is all my fault! If I had stayed up, Molepaw wouldn't be dead!" He growled.

Hollyleaf growled. "What did I tell you about blaming yourself? You need to realize that not everything is your fault! I love you, and you should love yourself," she whimpered, her tail curling around Fallen Leaves.

Fallen Leaves glanced down at his paws. *Hollyleaf, you have a power. I should tell you.* "I-" He then quickly stopped. *No, now is not the time.*

He got up and turned to Cherrypaw. "We'll need to bury Molepaw soon," Fallen Leaves informed.

Cherrypaw didn't move, instead, she whimpered with sadness. "I can't leave my brother here! His spirit will be forever trapped in these tunnels!" She cried.

"No, his spirit will make it to StarClan," Hollyleaf reassured. She placed her paw on Cherrypaw's back. "I know you probably don't want to hear this now, but you need to return home to your Clan. They will be worried about you."

Cherrypaw didn't respond, she only buried herself in her brother.

"Who is your mother? Father?" Hollyleaf asked.

"My mother is Poppyfrost and my father is Berrynose," Cherrypaw responded. "I-I don't want to go back, I want to stay here, with my brother," she whimpered.

Hollyleaf leaned back and looked at Fallen Leaves, who looked guilty as ever. "I'm going to go hunt deeper in the tunnels. I'll be back," he quickly stuttered, running off.

Hollyleaf wanted to follow after her mate, but she couldn't leave Cherrypaw behind. "How about I try to cheer you up?"

"You won't be able to cheer me up," Cherrypaw whispered, her ears folding back.

Hollyleaf looked around, her whiskers twitching. "You know, I was ThunderClan once," she mewed, leaning close.

"You were? If you're ThunderClan then why are you in here?" Cherrypaw asked.

"I did something bad and I just left. I couldn't deal with it. But now that I'm with Fallen Leaves, I feel better," Hollyleaf meowed, her eyes shining.

"What is your name, then?"

"I'm Hollyleaf," Hollyleaf responded. "I'm the sister of Jayfeather and Lionblaze," she meowed, her tail flicking.

"I heard about you! You were the cat that spoke out at the gathering and then-" Cherrypaw gasped. "I thought you were dead! Everyone in ThunderClan thinks you're dead right now! Are you a spirit?" Cherrypaw asked.

"No, I'm not a spirit," Hollyleaf answered. "The tunnel collapsed behind me when I ran in, so I guess they thought I died," she explained. Thinking back on it, she hated knowing that her brothers thought she was dead.

"Why did you run away? Was it too embarrassing to live in the Clan knowing Leafpool is your mother?" Cherrypaw asked, her ears pricked forward.

"No, it was something else," Hollyleaf mumbled.

"What was it?"

"I can't tell you," Hollyleaf whined. She sat up. "When you leave to go back to ThunderClan, please don't tell anyone about me. They'll all think I'm a traitor for living in the tunnels. Right now, they think I'm dead," Hollyleaf meowed, her voice echoing in the walls.

"But.. I don't want to leave. I want to stay! My brother died in this very cave, and I want to stay with him. He matters deeply to me!" Cherrypaw whimpered. She turned back to the corpse of her brother, deep sadness in her eyes. "I want to be left alone now." Cherrypaw then curled up beside her brother and closed her eyes.

Hollyleaf slowly backed away from the small apprentice. *If she doesn't want to leave, then that means she'll have to live down here.* Hollyleaf looked down. *What if her Clan comes looking for her and somehow they find me? I have to convince her somehow that she should go home. She's a danger to me being caught! If I'm caught, they'll probably kill me after finding out what I did!*

Here y'all go

Chapter 6

●sorry for not updating in a while●

Molepaw's corpse had been buried by the river, and a large rock was placed on top to mark his grave. Cherrypaw had been silent since, but she refused to leave the cave. Two days had passed, and she was still dull, hardly even eating.

Fallen Leaves paced around the cave, his tail sweeping the ground. Last night he was trapped in the flooding caves again, the water rising up and up. But he made it out and met small kits that he thought he'd never see again.

The two kits were his siblings, one was Leaping Mist. She was a sleek-furred gray tabby she-kit with bright green eyes. The other was Broken Stone, who was a rough gray tabby tom with a white underbelly and river-blue eyes.

Fallen Leaves couldn't stop thinking about his younger siblings, but what pierced his thoughts the most was Hollyleaf's power. He wondered what it was, or if he should tell her. *I know Rock told me that I shouldn't, but I can't just keep this from her.*

Fallen Leaves scraped at some of the dirt under his paws, his fur feeling heavy. *Maybe she can figure it out on her own.* He pulled a tiny root from the dirt, trying to focus on something else. *It gets so lonely here, but with Hollyleaf and that apprentice, it's not so bad.*

"Hollyleaf!" A squeaky voice meowed, echoing around.

Hollyleaf glanced up from where she was fishing. She took her gaze away from Fallen Leaves and looked at Cherrypaw. "What?"

"I... I know what I have to do to keep ThunderClan away from here," Cherrypaw sighed.

"And what is that?" Hollyleaf asked, narrowing her eyes.

"I... I will tell them that I'm becoming a kittypet. Then they'll think I'm not even on Clan territory, when I'll actually be in these tunnels," Cherrypaw sighed. "I hate to.. betray ThunderClan, but..."

"It's okay, Cherrypaw," Hollyleaf soothed. She leaped over the river, landing on the other side with Cherrypaw. She curled her tail around the apprentice, acting like a mother. "You won't be betraying ThunderClan. You're still a ThunderClan apprentice on the inside. That's what matters."

"And you're a ThunderClan cat too!" Cherrypaw reminded.

Hollyleaf turned away, her green eyes dull. "No. I betrayed ThunderClan, and nothing I do will get me back. I cannot call myself a ThunderClan warrior."

"But-"

"Cherrypaw," Fallen Leaves spoke. "Hurry quickly with the news. We don't want ThunderClan finding Hollyleaf down here." If she's found, she'll be exiled... away from me.

Eventually after a few more words, Cherrypaw left, her pawsteps echoing in the tunnel until they couldn't be heard. The only sound was the gentle flowing of the river.

Fallen Leaves turned to Hollyleaf. "Hollyleaf.. I had a dream where I was in the tunnels again," he spoke softly.

Hollyleaf shifted. "I'm sorry. Did you make it out?" She questioned.

"Yes. And at the exit, I saw two kits. They were my siblings," Fallen Leaves explained. "Why... why am I seeing my family at the exit? Are they trying to tell me something? Warn me of something?"

"I'm not sure. I'm no medicine cat, so I can't really explain dreams," Hollyleaf joked. "But that sure is weird. And I feel weird asking this question, but did they die as kits?" She asked.

"I don't know. I hardly even knew them when I died," Fallen Leaves sighed. *Now is the time I should tell her.* He was about to open his mouth to speak, but he froze suddenly. It felt as though thousands

of chills crawled through his fur. He could sense Rock's cold ghostly presence right beside him.

Hollyleaf shifted closer, her eyes narrowing. "It looks like you have something to say. You're not hiding something from me, are you?" She asked.

"No, I'm not!" Fallen Leaves defended. "I uh.. got scared to ask you a certain question. I don't want to upset you, Hollyleaf," he lied. *I need to think of a random question! Oh StarClan, what did I get in to?*

"I won't get upset. Go on," Hollyleaf prompted.

Fallen Leaves avoided the black she-cat's green gaze. "Do you... love your mother?" He asked slowly. *Oh mouse-dung, she's going to hate me!*

Hollyleaf sat still for a moment. "I'm not even sure, Fallen Leaves. I love my brothers though, and that is the most I will say." She began to turn away.

Oh no, I made her sad! Fallen Leaves rushed forward. "But... she's your mother."

"A mother who lied to her own kits is no mother of mine," Hollyleaf hissed. "I don't hate Leafpool or Squirrelflight, but I don't view either of them as my mother. I *may* forgive them one day, eventually when I am ready."

"Wait... Hollyleaf," Fallen Leaves sighed. "What ever happened to Ashfur? Did you.. really kill him?" He asked.

"I killed that stupid tom, so what?" Hollyleaf sighed, lashing her tail. She turned around, staring at Molepaw's grave. "If Leafpool just stayed truthful from the beginning, then I wouldn't have killed Ashfur and ended up here."

Fallen Leaves leaned closer, his whiskers twitching. "But.. you wouldn't have met me, right?" He prompted.

Hollyleaf's gaze softened. "Yeah," she mumbled. She pressed her muzzle to Fallen Leaves' cheek. "I'm glad I met you."

Author's Note

Thank you for 2.6k reads and 46 votes! All the comments begging me to update have actually motivated me a bit. *Updates for this story will be very slow, unfortunately*.

Chapter 7

Fallen Leaves woke up, his paws kneading the air. He rolled from his nest, his thoughts buzzing. *As each day passes, I feel more and more strange.*

"Hi, Fallen Leaves!" Hollyleaf greeted. Her green eyes sparkled. "Cherrypaw is doing much better it seems," she informed.

"Ah, that's good," Fallen Leaves sighed.

"Did you dream about anything weird last night?" Hollyleaf asked.

"No.." The orange-and-white tom answered.

"By the way, I taught Cherrypaw how to catch fish," the black she-cat added, lifting her tail. She turned. "Come and see!"

Fallen Leaves bounded after her, his paws skidding on the rocky floor. He walked towards the river, looking at the rushing water.

"Hi Fallen Leaves!" Cherrypaw greeted. She twitched her whiskers, purring. "Look what I can do!" She crouched by the water, her eyes staring intently at the water. She flung her paw in and pulled out a wriggling fish.

"Amazing," Fallen Leaves purred. He sat down, his tail curling around his paws. He watched as Cherrypaw ate her fish. "Hey, Cherrypaw. I need to ask you something."

"Huh? What is it?" The apprentice asked, eating the fish.

"Are you going back to ThunderClan? I know you told them-"

"I don't wanna go home. I wanna stay here, with you and Hollyleaf," Cherrypaw whimpered. "And besides, I already told my Clan that I

became a kittypet."

"But don't you miss your family?" Fallen Leaves asked.

"I do. But I have to stop thinking about them. I just want to stay here," Cherrypaw mumbled.

"Sorry, I won't bother you about it anymore," Fallen Leaves said quickly. "Want to help me find some food?" He asked.

"You eat food? Aren't you a spirit?" Cherrypaw asked, her whiskers twitching.

"Not for me. But for Hollyleaf," The tom said, feeling a smile form on his face. He thought about the black she-cat and how her green eyes sparkled when she saw him. *Does she love me, like I love her? I'm just a spirit. It won't work.* But then he remembered Rock's words.

"Oh how sweet! You two are amazing," Cherrypaw purred, lifting her tail. "You know what would be cool? If we became a new Clan! That would awesome," the she-cat jumped up and down, happiness swarming through her.

Fallen Leaves' heart sank. A Clan? But what would everyone else think? He blinked. "How would that work? The other Clans wouldn't like that very much."

"Firestar would support it! He's very nice," Cherrypaw insisted. "Oh, Fallen Leaves, help me think of a name! Hmm, CaveClan? HollyClan? TunnelClan?"

"Alright, calm down," Fallen Leaves ushered. "We can think about it later. Right now, I want to hunt." He leaped over the thin river, his body feeling as light as a feather. He glanced back at Cherrypaw. "Want to hunt with me?" He questioned.

"Oh," Cherrypaw suddenly gasped. "Hollyleaf said she'd train me," Cherrypaw said. She shuffled her paws awkwardly. "Since I... don't have a mentor, I figured she'd train me."

"Oh, right," Fallen Leaves mumbled. "Well that's great to hear, Cherrypaw. Do you think Hollyleaf will make you a sharpclaw?" He

asked, then bristled. "I mean- a warrior? Sorry for the mistake."

"It's alright! Hollyleaf told me about how you had softpaws and sharpclaws in your time," Cherrypaw gasped. "But if I'm being honest, sharpclaws sound way cooler than warriors! Do you think I can be appointed a sharpclaw?"

"W-well, warriors and sharpclaws are the same thing, I guess. Just a different name," Fallen Leaves stammered. *Does this mean she really wants us to become a Clan? But how can we when we're just... a spirit, a warrior, and an apprentice?*

"Well, bye Fallen Leaves," Cherrypaw meowed. She turned away and sprinted farther down the cave, her paw-steps quiet.

Fallen Leaves turned and headed into the dark. He found a small mouse and caught it, then headed down the tunnel farther where a breeze crept through. Cold wind ruffled his fur. *One of the exits.* He couldn't see sunlight beaming in, so he crept out through the hole. Leaves blotted out most of the sky, but he could see the bright milky white of the moon shining through.

Fallen Leaves turned around and headed back down the tunnel. The soft sound of the river running filled his ears and he could hear voices. Hollyleaf was on the other side of the river with Cherrypaw. She was teaching the apprentice some fighting moves.

"Hi," Fallen Leaves muttered gently.

Hollyleaf looked up at the sound of his voice, and her eyes brightened when she saw him. It made his heart flutter. "I brought you this, I thought you might be hungry," he said. He tossed his mouse at her paws.

"How sweet, Fallen Leaves. Thank you for the mouse," Hollyleaf meowed, purring. She put her paw on her forehead and closed her eyes. "After all, I am the queen around here!" She then began giggling.

Fallen Leaves looked down at his paws, feeling his pelt burn. He could hear her purring loudly, then realized that he was also

purring. "I'll be right back."

"Huh? Where are you going?" Hollyleaf asked, looking at him with confusion. "You're not going to catch something else for me, are you?" She asked.

"No. I just need some fresh air," Fallen Leaves meowed, glancing behind him and staring longingly into the darkness.

"Oh.. alright," Hollyleaf mewed. She turned to Cherrypaw. "Now, where were we?"

Fallen Leaves turned away, feeling as though his own paws were dragging him toward the exit of the tunnels. *I have to talk to StarClan.*

I 've been thinking about renaming this book to Hollyleaf's Power, so if you do see a change, don't be confused.

Chapter 8

The moon was full and casted its milky light down on the land. It reflected on the lake's surface, almost as if the lake had picked the moon from the sky and held it in its cold confines. Fallen Leaves' paws prickled with anticipation. He felt light, like a leaf being carried by a gentle breeze on leaf-fall, and the wind was acting as a guide to his destination. Though he was far from the tunnels, he could smell Hollyleaf's warm scent, as if it was stuck on his fur. *Hollyleaf....*

Fallen Leaves' paw suddenly seemed to sink into something. He lifted his paw and saw a paw print in the ground. *The steps.* He hadn't realized he was already at the Moonpool, he thought it would've taken longer. *Oh well, I guess when you're a spirit....* His paws matched with the countless number of paw prints as he made his way to the pool. He stared down at it, feeling a bit uneasy. He crouched and placed his nose to the surface, almost jerking back at the sudden coldness striking through his body. He closed his eyes.

Fallen Leaves opened his eyes, expecting to see a star-lit space around him, but he was still by the Moonpool. Confused, he sat up. *It didn't work? But...* "StarClan?" He called out. *Maybe I'm supposed to contact them some other way.* He crouched down again and lapped the water, then closed his eyes. He opened them again, but nothing happened.

Fallen Leaves backed away, feeling uneasy. Then something caught his eye. He whirled around and saw the translucent figure of a cat; pale, wrinkly skin and a few raggedy lumps of dust-gray fur.

"...Rock?" Fallen Leaves questioned. "Why are you here?" He leaned forward, examining the old tom's face.

Rock looked at him with blind, bulging eyes. "Fallen Leaves..." He mumbled.

"Why can't I visit StarClan? I must speak with them," Fallen Leaves meowed, turning back towards the Moonpool.

Rock padded up beside him and sat down, looking down at the pool. "Because you're not a medicine cat," he said calmly.

"Huh, why does that matter? I'm a spirit!" Fallen Leaves pointed out, his tail-tip twitching.

"I'm afraid you're becoming less of a spirit," Rock said firmly.

"Huh?" Fallen Leaves asked. "What do you mean 'less of a spirit'? I'm still a spirit," Fallen Leaves growled slightly. "A wondering, lonely spirit," he mumbled, lowering his head.

"You aren't alone," Rock said. Was the ancient tom hiding something from him? "There's a reason you're becoming like this. There's a prophecy."

"What prophecy? How come I've never heard of it?" Fallen Leaves questioned, narrowing his eyes.

"I can't tell you," Rock meowed. "All I can say is that the light will push back the darkness. You.. are very important," he said, his voice low. And with that, he was gone.

Fallen Leaves leaped at the spot where Rock had been. "Come back! What's happening to me? Say something!" He shouted, flummoxed.

Fallen Leaves padded into the tunnels, realization dawning on him like snow blanketing his fur. *Am I becoming something other than a spirit? But why and how? Am I going to be alive again? But I'm dead! I've been dead for a long time.* He spotted Hollyleaf hurrying towards him.

"Where were you? I was worried sick!" Hollyleaf gasped. She buried her muzzle into his neck. Fallen Leaves breathed in her scent, feeling calm.

"I told you, I went for a walk," Fallen Leaves responded. He watched as she narrowed her green eyes.

"And *a walk* took you that long?" Hollyleaf prompted. Her eyes softened. "If something is going on, please tell me."

Fallen Leaves sighed. "I wanted to speak with StarClan," he answered. "But I couldn't."

Hollyleaf grew concerned. "That's weird. Surely.." she trailed off. She turned away, gazing at Cherrypaw, who was standing at Molepaw's grave. "I had a horrifying dream while you were gone. Luckily Cherrypaw was there to soothe me," she meowed.

Fallen Leaves touched his tail to hers. "What was it about?" He asked, curiosity pricking at his paws.

"I... was dead," Hollyleaf meowed. "I was a spirit, watching over a group of cats. I don't know who they were, but it scared me. They had this powerful aura... it was unnatural," Hollyleaf muttered. "You were there too, but something seemed different about you."

Fallen Leaves felt chills run through his fur. *Could she somehow be seeing the future? Is this the power that Rock told me about? No, it can't be.* Fallen Leaves pressed himself closer to her. "It's nothing to worry about. You were probably just having a nightmare because you were worried about me."

Hollyleaf purred lightly. "You're right, I shouldn't worry," she mewed. "We should try to get some sleep. I wanted to train Cherrypaw some more tomorrow."

"Sounds good," Fallen Leaves purred, settling into a moss nest with the black she-cat.

"You should come with us too. Get some fresh air," Hollyleaf meowed. "Maybe you can hunt for some herbs?"

"I guess I could sharpen my skills a bit," Fallen Leaves meowed, yawning. He closed his eyes, snuggling deeper into Hollyleaf's fur. "Goodnight."

Chapter 9

The sun was just rising, casting warm light into the cave's entrance. Fallen Leaves' eyes flitted open. Somehow, today felt different. *He* felt different. He suddenly remembered Rock's words from yesterday. *'You're becoming less of a spirit.' No, that can't be right. Dead cats don't come back.* He turned and looked at Hollyleaf's nest, which was empty. Cherrypaw's nest was empty as well. *They must be hunting together, or training.*

Fallen Leaves got out of his nest and stretched, feeling energized for the first time in his life. I'm supposed to be hunting for herbs today. He would have to go out of the caves, and hopefully he wouldn't be spotted. As he approached an exit, he could hear voices bouncing off the walls.

"You did good today. If we keep this up, maybe you'll become a warrior early." Hollyleaf's voice.

Fallen Leaves could see Hollyleaf and Cherrypaw at the end of the tunnel. He trotted up to them, lifting his tail in greeting. "Where are you two going?" He asked.

"Oh, nowhere. We just got back from training actually," Hollyleaf said. "Cherrypaw did amazing," she meowed, purring.

"You were out at night?" Fallen Leaves asked, nervous. "That's dangerous. There could be foxes, or-"

"It's a lot safer than being out in the light. We could be spotted by warriors," Hollyleaf argued, lashing her tail. She avoided his gaze. "You know how much I don't want to go back," she mewed.

Fallen Leaves' gaze softened. "It's alright. Just be careful, please," he meowed, touching his nose to hers.

Hollyleaf's whiskers twitched. "We actually thought that it's a good idea to train at night anyway. What if we're on our way to the Moonpool and we get attacked? It's harder to see in the dark, so I figured that it's best to be prepared," she meowed, purring.

"You're pretty smart, Hollyleaf," Fallen Leaves purred, resting his head on top of hers. His widened and he pulled away suddenly. "Wait, why would we need to go to the Moonpool?" He questioned.

Hollyleaf's eyes brightened. "Oh, I was thinking.... Next time when the moon is full, we should go on a walk. I think it'd be amazing to visit some of the landmarks here at the lake," she suggested, looking at him for an answer.

"That sounds wonderful," Fallen Leaves responded. He imagined walking by the lake with Hollyleaf by his side, enjoying the moon's reflection on the calm waters.

"Well, anyways, I'm going to go and fish with Cherrypaw," Hollyleaf meowed. "You can come and join us after you're done with herb hunting."

Fallen Leaves dipped his head and padded past the two cats. As he stepped out of the tunnel, he thought he could feel a breeze running through his fur. *I'm a ghost, I shouldn't be able to feel these things.* He decided that he should head for the catmint patch.

The sun was flitting through the trees by the time Fallen Leaves spotted the tall, leafy plant. He grabbed a few stalks, carrying them in his jaws. As he headed back to the tunnels, he could hear voices. He dove into a clump of ferns and peered through, spotting two toms who were near a tree.

"I wonder why Cherrypaw suddenly wanted to become a kittypet," the golden tabby said.

"If you ask me, I think there's more to it," the gray tabby responded. He pawed at some cobwebs that stretched between the tree and some shrubs. "Then again, I don't really care what the apprentices are doing these days."

"She was attacked by a fox and Molepaw was killed. And suddenly she wants to be a kittypet? It doesn't make sense to me. I think you're right about there being more to it," the golden tom said, in thought. "I don't think she could have fought a fox by herself. Some cat must have helped her. Maybe a kittypet helped, and she felt that she owed them?"

"That's stupid," the gray tabby said. "She never mentioned anyone helping."

"Yeah, but I still think there's more to it, like you said," the golden tabby suggested. His eyes widened. "Do you think Hollyleaf maybe had something to do with this? We know she's alive. Blossomfall confirmed this."

The gray tabby tom seemed to grow sad. "Maybe they were just seeing her spirit. If she was alive, she would have come home by way."

"I don't know, she was really upset about the whole Ashfur incident before she left. Maybe she feels guilty and doesn't want to return," the golden tom said. "Why don't we see if we can search the tunnels?"

"That's too dangerous, Lionblaze. We should head back now. If you really think she might be down there, have a talk with Firestar," the gray tabby said, taking the cobwebs in his mouth and turning around. *Lionblaze. Then the other one must be Jayfeather.*

Fallen Leaves finally left his hiding spot when they were out of sight. *I really shouldn't worry about them.*

It's been a while. I lost motivation for this story, but I'm going to try and complete it. I may make shorter chapters.

What do you guys think of the new Warriors series? Has it gone downhill? In my opinion, they should've ended with Omen of the Stars. They can't keep writing forever, the series has to end at some point.

Chapter 10

Hollyleaf took a bite of fish at her paws. Cherrypaw had caught it earlier. It had been a few days since Fallen Leaves had told her that he overhead a ThunderClan patrol talking about how they wanted to search for her. However, there had been no such sign of any cat coming into the tunnels. But that wasn't all that Hollyleaf was worrying about. Something was happening with Fallen Leaves.

Hollyleaf could always see the gray cave walls through Fallen Leaves, and now she could barely see through his fur. She wasn't sure what was happening. She looked up as she saw Cherrypaw padding towards her, a look of guilt on her face. "What's wrong, Cherrypaw?" She asked.

Cherrypaw stared at the ground. "I think I've changed my mind about staying here," she meowed. "I know I said that I wanted to stay with you guys, but... I've been thinking about things, about home. I think I was in shock about my brother's death. Grief clouded my mind. I guess I was trying to use all this as a distraction. I think I want to go back to ThunderClan," she meowed, lifting her head to look at Hollyleaf.

Hollyleaf felt a tiny bit of shock pulse through her, but she wasn't too surprised. She was young, and experiencing the death of her own brother must have been a lot for her. "Are you sure? You told the Clan that you wanted to be a kittypet," she pointed out.

"The longer I stay down here, the more I miss my family. And they miss me. I'll really miss you, though. You felt like a sister to me," Cherrypaw said, her eyes shimmering.

"I'll miss you too," Hollyleaf meowed. She suddenly realized that she missed ThunderClan too. *But I can't go back.* "Go, then, before it gets dark outside."

"Thank you," Cherrypaw dipped her head. "I hope you can come

back to ThunderClan someday," she mewed, and then turned to walk away.

Hollyleaf felt a pang of longing. She wished she could join her. She realized that she missed her littermates. *But I've discovered a new life with Fallen Leaves*.

Hollyleaf groomed her paw as she watched Cherrypaw walk away. She almost wanted to convince the apprentice the stay, but she knew it wasn't her right to decide the she-cat's future. Her body stayed glued to the ground and she stared hard at her fish.

A few moments had passed, and paw steps sounded behind her. Hollyleaf saw Fallen Leaves approaching, a distant look in his eyes. She got up and sprinted over to him. "What's wrong? You look..."

"It's nothing," Fallen Leaves sighed, avoiding her gaze. Then his green eyes glanced back towards her and he began to look less reluctant to tell her what was on his mind. "I had a dream again. About the tunnels," he murmured.

Hollyleaf nuzzled his cheek, trying to comfort him. "I'm sorry you have to keep reliving that," she mewed softly.

"But it was different. This silhouette of a cat swam to me in the water and pulled me out of the tunnels," Fallen Leaves continued, his tail flicking. "Most of the time, my tunnel dreams end with my death," he sighed, pressing against Hollyleaf.

Hollyleaf pressed hard against him, her paws close to his. She wished there was some kind of way to get him to stop having those kinds of dreams. "Do you think it has a meaning?" She questioned.

"I'm no medicine cat," Fallen Leaves chuckled softly. "I do think it means something though. I'm not quite sure yet, but.... maybe it's about you?" He prompted.

"Really now? Am I some hero cat that's going to save you?" Hollyleaf asked, narrowing her eyes in amusement.

Fallen Leaves eyes flashed for a second. He curled his tail in amusement. "Maybe you will," he meowed softly, beginning to purr.

The two cats sat with each other for a few more heartbeats, then Fallen Leaves stirred. "Where's Cherrypaw? I hardly ever see her leave your side."

Hollyleaf stiffened. "She left. She went back to ThunderClan," she meowed, her shoulders drooping. "I didn't stop her. I let her make her choice," she explained, then added, "I'm sorry."

"Sorry? For Cherrypaw leaving? That's not your fault, you know. It's fine if Cherrypaw wanted to go back," Fallen Leaves meowed, his tail flicking.

"It's not that," Hollyleaf sighed. "Her decision to leave has made me question my own decision. I miss ThunderClan! I miss my brothers! I miss Clan life!" She blurted, her fur rising. "But I can't go back. I'm a traitor, and I would also be betraying you!"

"Hollyleaf-- What?" Fallen Leaves gasped. "I'm not holding you here. You wouldn't be a traitor for missing your Clan and family, I would know. If you want to go back, I wouldn't mind. Do what makes you happy, Hollyleaf," Fallen Leaves meowed. "I just want you to be happy." His green gaze was so soft that it made Hollyleaf's heart melt.

Hollyleaf could feel her blood coursing through her veins. Her paws felt light and floaty, like she could fly. "*You're* the one that makes me happy!" She meowed. "I can't go back-- because I love you too much," she whined. She pressed her nose to his head, her heart pounding. "You've been here for me. You've been kind and compassionate. I don't want to leave you, not even for my Clan, and that's the problem! I'm stuck between two worlds," she whimpered.

I lost motivation to work on my stories, but I've also been extremely busy with college. After reading the new Warriors book, I actually gained some motivation for writing again. I will try to finish this book, although it might take a while.

Chapter 11

After Hollyleaf finished speaking, a bright light emitted from Fallen Leaves. The tunnel walls glittered like ice as his pelt seemed to be on fire. Hollyleaf gasped, her fur bushing up. "Fallen Leaves!" She screamed. She was thrown back by a small shock wave, grunting as she hit the cold floor.

Fallen Leaves stood there, his eyes wide open. The stars that glittered in his fur shone brighter than before, and then they began to shoot out of his body. It looked as if invisible cats were picking them out of his fur and throwing them aside. A bright glow covered his body, making Hollyleaf wince. She scrambled to her paws and watched as the light left his body. Then, he collapsed on the ground. *What in StarClan just happened?!*

Before Hollyleaf could rush to her mate, a ghostly apparition appeared in front of her. It was a hairless cat with bulging eyes. He looked as old as the land itself. "Hollyleaf," he rasped, dipping his head.

Hollyleaf flicked her tail in annoyance. She wanted to check on Fallen Leaves, but his spirit blocked her path. *I guess I should listen to what he has to say.* "What?"

"You've discovered your power," the tom meowed. "I'm Rock, an ancient healer," he explained. "You've always had a power. You just haven't discovered it until now."

"What? But that's impossible!" Hollyleaf protested. "How would my brothers know their powers and not me?" She growled.

"Because your power is special. It's different," Rock meowed. "You've grown close to Fallen Leaves, a spirit. Now, with your power, he is no longer a spirit," he explained casually, as if he was

telling an apprentice how to use mouse bile.

"I don't understand," Hollyleaf hissed. "Did I send his spirit to StarClan?" She asked, then felt as though her stomach had become a hollow pit. *No! That can't be true!*

"No," Rock responded. "You've resurrected him. He is alive again." He padded closer, his bulging eyes gazing at Hollyleaf. "You two have an important destiny. One that will change the Clans," he meowed.

Hollyleaf was still confused. How could a dead cat be alive? "How does that work?" She questioned, narrowing her eyes.

"It's a gift from StarClan," Rock meowed, flicking his tail in annoyance.

"So, if I have a power to revive dead cats, then can't I just bring back every cat my Clan has lost?" Hollyleaf asked. "Isn't that strange? How can StarClan grant such power?"

"It's not that simple," Rock huffed. "It only works with spirits who you have a deep connection to. Lost spirits, not just any StarClan cat. We only needed you to use this power once anyways," he meowed. He then turned towards the stream inside the cave.

Hollyleaf could hardly believe what she was hearing. All this time, she had a power. She could revive spirits? *Fallen Leaves and I have grown really close. So my love for him caused him to be alive again?*

"Follow. There's something you must see so that you can understand your power even more," Rock meowed, flicking his tail. He crouched by the water's edge and Hollyleaf followed along. "There is a prophecy. I won't tell you, but I'll show you." Rock stretched his paw forward and touched the surface of the water with the tip of his dirty, curled claws.

The water's surface filled with ripples. Then, something else appeared- Four cats who looked young and strong. Hollyleaf gasped with amazement. A giant cat shadow appeared over them, but the shadow was covered in light and disappeared. Then, the vision

faded. Hollyleaf wasn't sure how to understand it. She turned to look at Rock and ask him, but the tom was gone. She got to her paws and looked around, but he was nowhere. *What even was that?*

A grunt came from nearby. Hollyleaf saw Fallen Leaves rising to his paws. She cried out with joy and rushed towards him. "Fallen Leaves! I'm glad you're okay!" She yowled, nuzzling his fur. She gasped as she realized how different he felt. His fur was soft and warm. He felt alive. *So it's true then.* "You... you're alive!" She gasped.

Fallen Leaves grunted. "And very hungry..." he rasped. He shook out his pelt and stretched. "What happened? What do you mean?" He questioned.

"Did you feel that light in your body? Rock appeared and told me that I revived you with my power!" Hollyleaf gasped. "Great StarClan I'm so happy! I don't care how it works, I'm just glad we can finally be with each other!" She purred, pushing her head into his chest.

Fallen Leaves purred in return. "Rock told me this would happen. I still don't understand how I can be alive again. I've been a spirit for so long. But I don't care how it works! I'm just happy that we can actually be together," Fallen Leaves meowed. He nuzzled her cheek, his paws kneading the ground in happiness.

Hollyleaf was surprised. *So Rock had informed him earlier? Why didn't he tell me?* She shook her head in acceptance. *No, it makes sense. Maybe StarClan wanted it to be this way.* "Rock also showed me something. It was a vision of four cats," she meowed, glancing back at the water.

Fallen Leaves' eyes flashed with recognition. "A prophecy?" He gasped. "Did he tell you what it was? Or what would happen?" He asked, staring at her intently.

Hollyleaf shook her head. "He just showed me a vision in the water. Four young cats 'defeated' some kind of giant shadow cat. I didn't understand it. Rock didn't even bother explaining," she told him. "I guess we have to figure it out on our own."

Fallen Leaves closed his eyes, as if in deep thought. "Do you think it has anything to do with us?" He asked, flicking his tail.

"I'm not sure," Hollyleaf meowed. "I would assume that something dark is coming. Maybe the four cats are the four Clans? Then again, we're not in a Clan, so it has nothing to do with us."

"I hope you're right," Fallen Leaves responded, sighing. He got up and began walking to their nest, his tail drooping. "Oh StarClan, I didn't realize how tired I am," he gasped, yawning. He sank into the nest like a puddle of water, quickly falling asleep.

I guess being revived must've drained all his energy. Hollyleaf chuckled softly and stepped into the nest, curling around him. She was still unable to comprehend the power that she had. *Is this all just a dream?* Soon, she quickly fell asleep.

I'm trying to speed up this story. I'll be implementing some time skips in the next chapter.